

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0907

November 3, 2016

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

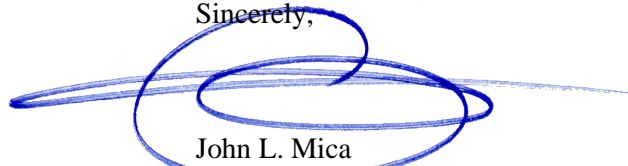
I am writing to request your assistance in expediting the distribution of the Congressionally appropriated \$1.1 billion to combat the Zika virus. It is important that these funds immediately reach the hardest hit areas, especially Puerto Rico, with the highest number of cases of Zika infection, and Florida, with the only confirmed mosquito-borne transmissions of the Zika virus on the mainland and the second highest number of infections across the 50 states. For the good of our country, your Administration cannot drag its feet in getting this funding out as soon as possible.

Just this week, officials in Puerto Rico reported the first case of an infant born with microcephaly as a result of a Zika infection. With almost 30,000 cases of the virus, 98% of which were acquired through local transmission, they will continue to experience the impact of this epidemic. The rampant transmission of the Zika virus is not isolated to the island of Puerto Rico, my fellow Floridians and I have spent the prime mosquito breeding months of the summer battling the transmission of this disease. With over 1,100 reported cases of Zika, 129 of which involve pregnant women, Florida is desperately attempting to avoid a catastrophic tipping point in the epidemic. Puerto Ricans and Floridians need funding now, to protect those faced with the grim reality of this virus.

On September 29<sup>th</sup>, Congress appropriated \$1.1 billion of additional funding to combat Zika. Over a month later and finally with a spending plan finalized, we have not seen enough of these funds distributed to our communities most in need. The spending plan includes \$394 million for mosquito control and surveillance, \$397 million for vaccine and diagnostic development and specifically directing \$40 million dollars for community health centers in Puerto Rico, \$60 million for the Puerto Rico Department of Health to treat Zika-related conditions and additional funding for Florida to combat Zika. However, out of the most recent appropriation, only \$39 million has gone to Puerto Rico and the Florida Governor reports that no funds have been received by the state. We are out of time and need additional resources immediately.

It is critical that you expeditiously distribute the appropriated funds to Florida and Puerto Rico who are most in the areas most in need of immediate resources to support their ongoing efforts to fight the Zika epidemic.

Sincerely,



John L. Mica  
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Sylvia Mathews Burwell, Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services